

## CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

**February 18, 2009 – 1:00 -3:00 p.m. ET**

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL			R2	
IITF			R3	Jean Szymanski
NA	Susan Cox		R4	
NRS	Barbara McGuiness		R5	
PNW & PSW	Becky Bitner		R6	
RMRS			R8	
SRS			R9	Don Howlett
R1	Julie Molzahn		R10	
WO-Detached	Babs MacDonald,		WO	Sue Cummings, Iris Velez, Safiya Samman, Sandy Frost

### Agenda

#### **Updates...**

- **Symbols.gov Update**
- **Climate Change Education Update**
- **National CE meeting –**
- **2009 More Kids in the Woods**
- **National CE Web Update**

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### FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP...

#### **Updates**

##### *Safiya Updates:*

- Safiya will be out of the office from 2/22 – 3/20/09 on training. Anne Hoover, R&D will be serving as Acting Director during month. Anne is a social scientist with R&D, and has been engaged in the Kids in Woods effort since its beginnings.
- Safiya is engaged in preparing 2010 and 2011 budgets.

#### **Climate Change Education**

- Safiya is leading the Climate Change Education Team – Seven teams are implementing the FS's Climate Change Framework. She has pulled together a cross-Deputy Area team, including IITF, to develop education actions. Group will tie closely to Climate Change science program – an interagency working group that has identified building blocks of information and education.
- Climate Change Education Team will focus on both internal and external audiences.
- Job Corps has been very interested in 'greening' their JC Centers. WO staff put together a lesson plan, used at 22 FS Job Corps centers. Talking further to encompass other environmental education components.

### **Symbols.gov – Iris Velez**

- Symbols.gov has been hacked, and website has been taken down. No personal sensitive data compromised. Files corrupted and destroyed. Three teams from IRM are working on getting operation up and running. Includes E-Commerce team – FS and Department has been very supportive. Symbols.gov files are now being moved to a 'protected' server that will support the new FS portal environment.
- Symbols Cache is still operating as usual – can fax order forms and your order will be filled. Iris – share the form (including catalog information) with partners – not processing back orders. Share with whomever will need it.
- Coordinators appreciative of getting info out quickly – appreciative of alternative way to order materials.
- Pushing to get resolved before fire season.
- Deb Bruyere will be in WO next week and will focus on the e-commerce catalog. Deb was thanked for getting materials to RM Elk Foundation quickly.
- Please send any issues or questions re. Symbols.gov directly to Iris Velez.
- National Garden Club poster contest – selection of 5 national winners on March 23, Green Mtn NF.

### **FS Conference/Meeting – Sandy Frost**

- Group endorsed the need for a meeting, and were comfortable with the time frame and location outlined in the one-pager. Meeting is tentatively planned for July 14, 15, & 16 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown WV.
- Regions would generally support attendance at meeting – some may have travel constraints. PLEASE send Sandy a note by 2/25 if you are not going to be able to attend because of funding, travel cap or scheduling problems.
- Question whether the WO-CE program could help with funding? Unclear at this time – the WO is also under constrained travel caps. Will continue to investigate.
- WO-CE will start work on requesting meeting approval from the USDA.
- After progress is made on basic logistics of meeting, focus of the planning team will shift to objectives of the meeting, agenda, expectations etc.

### **More Kids in the Woods – Sandy Frost**

- RSA teams should have their proposals back for prioritization – return RSA lists to WO by 3/2.
- Jean's team – is using a new form for reviewing projects – will share with the group as a potential tool for others.

### **Web Site – Sandy Frost**

- Work continues – the website will be launched directly in the new portal system. Review of content is ongoing.
- Sandy is meeting with the Fire Prevention Coordinators next week to gather their input.
- It would be good to have the website as an agenda item at the July CE Coordinators meeting.
- Link to draft site is <http://fsweb2.dv.r5.fs.fed.us:88/ce/> -- please contact Sandy with any ?? or comments. She will organize a more coordinated review of the content ASAP!

### **ROUND ROBIN**

#### **Region 9 – Don Howlett:**

- R9 working with Betty Brinn Children's Museum – 1,500 sq ft interactive exhibit – grand opening on March 14 – Jean Classen will put together a one-page flyer to share – can rent exhibit.
- White Mtn NF working on local forest version of Junior Forest Ranger book – will touch base with WO.
- Many groups are working on National Get Outdoors Day proposals.

- **Centennial Green** – a multi-media extravaganza – was taped by Public TV and will be released nationwide for airing. The sponsoring forest will develop a flyer and market the opportunity. Airing on local Public TV stations might provide a unique education opportunity.
- Region 9 has More than 40 MKIW proposals to review.

#### Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip:

- Region 8 is participating in the NAI Regional Interpreters Workshop being hosted by LBL Feb. 17-20. The theme, Building Bridges and Bridging Ideas will see relationships built between CE and Interp, Cultural and Natural fields and geographic areas too. Excellent guest speakers, a panel discussion (Last Kid on the River) and a short meeting with FS employees (I think there'll be 30 maybe!) as well as many concurrent sessions will enrich our programs for years to come. Over 130 attendees are registered, a record for a regional workshop and Tim Merriman (Executive Director of NAI) will be there too!
- Locally, LBL is recovering, or trying to figure out how to recover from the recent ice storm. Many communities near by still are without power, many of our facilities are dark as well. The northern part of LBL is a wreck with down trees and hanging limbs waiting to fall. All side roads and trails are closed to the public. Weather today (2/11) is getting pretty scary as t-storms and high winds keep moving through the area. Everyone's working hard to help get up and open as soon as possible. Rumor has it that may be mid April for some parts (instead of March 1).
- Latino Legacy program of the National Forests in Texas was highlighted in an excellent newspaper story by the Daily Sentinel. The Latino Legacy program is focused largely on educating young people and their families about the environment and conservation. The organization does outreach in a number of ways, including working with after-school programs and setting up community events and programming.

#### Region 4 – Carol Ryan:

- Busy with Stimulus work – line up VCs for improvements.
- Getting ready for MKIW proposal reviews.
- Is looking for a short .ppt program about the history of the FS – any ideas from the group would be appreciated. Sandy F will contact Steve Dunsky to see if there is an 'educator's' version of *The Greatest Good* that could be used.

#### Region 3 – Jean Szymanski:

- Aldo Leopold Centennial kicked off last weekend with a very successful conference – “A Cultural Conversation”. Nearly 300 people attended. Highlighted different perspectives on the “land ethic.” Featured working groups on last day to talk about bridging gaps.
  - Estella Leopold, daughter, -- newly designated Aldo Leopold forest – planted 100 trees.
  - Hosted AL board members – gave tours of Mia Casita, Leopold's home
  - Celebration continues throughout the year.
- PLT in NM – consuming Jean's weekends – program is growing and strengthening.
- National Get Outdoors Day – Albuquerque will be site of a large event. Recreation is taking lead.
- *Burning Issues* CDs? – **please** share extras with Jean.

#### Region 1 – Julie Molzahn:

- Recently completed the successful Missoula Children and Nature Summit
- Gen Y Initiative –Rick Potts-NPS is leading effort; Julie and Region 1 is engaged
- LOLO pass VC had a major structural failure -- trusses failing because of heavy snow – major venue for a range of educational programming. Unsure what future status of center will be.
- Forest For Every Classroom – choosing teachers for upcoming session starting in March
- FireWorks training RMRS training in Missoula this week.
- Julie is participating in R1 Climate Change group– will connect with Vicki and Safiya to link to national efforts.

#### Pacific Northwest Research Station – Becky Bittner:

- Working with Intercity Youth Institute
- Participated in Girl Scout Day at World Forestry Center – lots of excitement and interest.

#### Northern Research Station – Barbara McGuinness:

- Tons of fun with economic stimulus plan!! Generating many projects/lists for education
- Working on organizing and reviewing More Kids in the Woods proposals.
- Exciting new partnership opportunity with WGBH (Public TV out of Boston, MA) – WGBH is the primary provider of PBS Kids programming – they are looking at putting together a new show about Fitness Thinking (?) – Barbara is working with them, and linking them to wealth of FS materials. This would be at least a 2-3 effort.

#### Northeastern Area –Susan Cox:

- Few weeks ago attended revision of PLT High School ecology and forest issues modules; 35 people in group each day – went well. Mostly NE educators. Revision piece went well – good FS participation. Inundated with FS people! PLT is doing a few more groups around country. Forest Health, invasives, and monitoring (I-Tree) for high school students were of special interest to FS participants.
- Math Science partnership – funding for second round of effort; teachers are clamoring for more training and support. Focus on getting schools to take kids outside, conduct inquiry-based science.
- It's the Conference season! Will present a Natural Inquirer teachers workshop at the NH Teachers Association meeting. At NH EE Conference – workshops/sessions to support doing inquiry outdoors – GLOBE program doing sessions.
- NSTA series of books on formative assessment – basic probes. Look at developing 'probes' on watersheds and other natural resource issues.
- Working on revision of the **Good Forestry in the Granite State** publication– doing listening sessions, going well. Publication is written for a resource manager to use with land owners. Go to [www.GoodForestry.org](http://www.GoodForestry.org) for more information.
- Vermont is celebrating Forestry Centennial. Burlington Free Press has published a nice publication – contact Susan if you'd like to see a copy.
- Vermont is developing an on-line program to get youth engaged in urban forests – they need a short video clip on that topic – please contact Susan directly with any resources that might be available.
- FFEC followup session. Graduate of program is conducting a GIS workshop for other teachers.
- Planning Centennial of Weeks Act – 2011 – instrumental on eastern national forests – get in touch with Susan Cox.

#### Washington Office

- Sandy Frost:
  - MonarchLIVE's Mexico broadcasts take place this week. More broadcasts in May, 2009 – focusing on pollinator gardens and actions kids can take to help monarchs and other pollinators.
  - National Get Outdoors Day – June 13, 2009 – please consider being a part of GO Day – look for the letter from the Chief, participate in the 2/24 conference call!!
- Babs MacDonald:
  - First Teacher workshop scheduled for this summer! Just found out
  - 99% finished with **Investigator** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade science journal. Draft will go to NRS in the next two weeks for review.
  - Currently working on editorial review of Biofuels edition of NI – also completed additional survey questionnaires for EUGENE.

*Notes by Sandy Frost, February 18, 2009*